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A

LETTER

OR AN

EPISTLE

To all well-minded Men

In *England*, *Wales*, and *Ireland*,

IN SPECIAL

To the PARLIAMENT and ARMY;

And more particularly

To the Lord General

and my Fellow-Souldiers, in,

or out of the ARMY.

Together with a *Declaration* of the Army, wherein the true original or intentional Constitution of the present Authority, is clearly Demonstrated.

London, Printed in the Yeer. 1649.

To the Reader,

Dear Reader, before thou readeſt this Epiſtle, let thy heart be free from prejudice; and if you knoweſt the evil or good that dwels in thee, thou wilt diſcern much of Gods fighting againſt Anger, Covetouſneſs, and Honor in this world, and in a ſpecial maner amongſt thoſe that worſhip not the true God, yet profeſſing high and mighty things; laying open all or moſt of the Hypocriſies, and deceit of thoſe men now in Power and Authority, or place of Truſt. And when I conſider how narrow a path the Parliament walketh in, I tremble, and know not what they would do. Were it not for their pretended grent fleſhly Army what could they do, or whether could they flie? nor can they flie from the preſence of the Lord, who can in a moment turn the Land againſt them, and bring them to open Judgment, as it hath others. So farewel.

I reſt, yours in him, that is
Righteons, Juſt and Innocent:
the Peoples true Friend and Servant,

True Engliſhman.

A Letter or an Epiſtle to all well-minded men in *England, Wales*, and *Ireland*, in ſpecial to the Parliament and Army, and more particularly to the Lord General, and my Fellow-Souldiers, in, or out of the Army.

AS nothing is more dear to us then our Liberties and Freedoms, ſo nothing can be more grievous then to have our mouthes ſtopped, by the Tyranny of thoſe who are our pretended Truſtees (ſometimes ſitting at *Weſtminſter*) inſomuch, That we muſt not ſpeak of thoſe juſt Rights that are our due by the Law of God and Nations, without being declared Traytors, impriſoned, and delt worſe withal then the common enemy; nor can we open our mouths for impartial Juſtice, but immediately we are ſtiled Levellers, and contemners of Authority, and againſt all Government: Such is the preſent condition and prevalency of a ſort of men well known, Ambitious to Rule, whoſe pretence hath always been for good and Godlineſs, Freedom and Liberty; nay, how many glorious Declarations and Remonſtrances have come from them? how have they rent and broken the Parliament in pieces, *&c.* and made the Nation beleeve it was for no other end, but to free the people of *England* from that Tyranny and Oppreſſion they lay under; that ſo the Commons of *England* might have had a free and equal yeerly Repreſentative, and an accompt of all their Treaſure? But inſtead of theſe our undoubted Rights, we are like, if God prevent not, to be more bound then before; nay, more Tyrannically delt withal then ever, more oppreſſed then ever: But its no wonder to me, when I conſider, how craftily the old Foxes have delt with us; and how they have made us their ſtalking horſes; and as I remember, moſt of theſe preſent Rulers had little Power or Authority about two yeers and a half ſince, but many of them were in great fear of their lives, inſomuch, That they ſent for particular active men of the Army, and made their moan to them, weeping and howling, ſaying, *What ſhall we do to be ſaved alive? and how ſhall we be able to overcome* Charls *and his faction?* Anſwer was made by Cornet *Joyce*, and others, *If you will but make* England *a free Nation, we will hazard all for your preſervation.* Immediately, great and large promiſes were made by them to us, Vows and Proteſtations, calling Heaven and Earth to witneſs, They intended to make *England* a free State, and not in the leaſt to ſeek for to ſet up themſelves; if we would but now ſtand by them. Theſe great and glorious promiſes made ſome of us act night and day, ride and run many a wearieſom and chargable journey, and never were at reſt, until we had removed *Charls*, and that faction; and no ſooner had we done that, but Conſultations were held, how we might be laid aſide, but not

wholly dis-ingaged, least they should not be able to cary on their design; and after a little more experience, they found the former faction like to be too hard for them; sent again to some of the active spirited men in the Army, making great moan, weeping and confessing what a golden opportunity was let slip, more firmly ingaging themselves then before, That if God would make way for them to act once more, what good and glorious things would they do for all the people! and that we might believe them. They told us, how they sought not themselves, nor their Kinred, nor did they intend Lordly Domination over their fellow Commoners; desiring us to note them for Hypocrites, if ever they made any more Lords in *England*; nor would they except of being Lords themselves, shewing how unchristianlike this Parliament had demeaned themselves towards God and good men, weeping and mourning over those poor mean and despised men that God had made use of for their deliverance, saying unto the poor Souldiery, You are the men that have brought us to this honor (I mean my self, *Cromwel*) and should I not make you amends, I were ten thousand times worse then the Parliament. Afterward exhorting them never to believe him again, if he did ever forsake them, and cleave to that wretched Parliament, or any part thereof. But no sooner was the great work done, and some great ones removed out of the way; but all former things were forgotten, nay, the men whom God had made most instrumental, as was confessed by *Cromwel* himself, were afterward by him delt unhumanlike withal, nay, that is not all; for he hath laid snares privately to destroy poor Cornet *Joyce*, & he that was his man *Spaven*, besides many others that he cannot work over to serve his Kingly Interest. O poor General, be no longer deceived, but go forth in the strength of God, and do what is left undone, least the Lord smite your heart with trembling and horror. Do but read over your Armies Declarations and Remonstrances, and make them good, or disown them, and speak to us once more in your wonted tenderness, otherwise shall we take it for granted, all lies at your door; or say unto us, and the Nation, We shall be slaves at will; for we are now but little better, as we may evidently see and feel; for as soon as any wel-minded cordial-hearted man of your Army appears for the making good what was held forth by your self and Army; your Officers can prevail with you, to turn him or them out of Command, if not kill, impeach, or condemn them; but if a great one, or favorite of a faction, do never so hainous a crime, he, or they shall escape without punishment; for instance, *Hammond*, late Governor of the Isle of *Wight*, who disobeyed three positive Orders under Hand and Seal from the Lord General, nay, protested, if he had been in the Isle of *Wight*, he would have fought against General, and all, even to death, rather then the King should have been brought to a tryal; and still disowning this Authority: notwithstanding many other things of wait against him, if impartial Justice might be had; but instead thereof, he still receives the Revenues, Rents of that Government, besides he hath lately had four or five hundred a yeer given him, and his Heirs for ever, by this Parliament. Compare this with the shooting men to death, who never disowned the Parliament, nor General, but desired those things might be done which they had engaged for over and over, by the consent of General, and most of the Officers and Souldiers then in the Army. O horrible! who can do less then tremble at this hypocrisie, especially when we

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conſider of *Cromwels* words to us, ſaying, *God would deſtroy this wicked Parliament; ſome for acting wickedly, and others for not proteſting againſt them:* But mark and behold how he hath defiled that light of God then breathing from him, (and for what end is evident) for to be a Lord or King is now a better trade, then it was two yeers ſince; and if I miſtake not, he hath more power now, then ever the Kings of *England* had. Firſt, a broken Parliament at his command; ſecondly, a new Modled Councel of State; thirdly, a General that does not diſpleaſe him; fourthly, An Army in *Ireland*, and another in *England*; beſides many reformed Churches in the City of *London*; all this he makes ſure of. Dear friends, and Fellow-Commoners, here is the glory of our Freedoms locked up in the Boſom of one man; here is Eaſe indeed; a Golden Harveſt indeed; what not?

Can we deſire more from this generation, or expect leſs (for my part not) and therefore I do now begin to acquieſce, and look ſome other way, I know the Lord will not be mocked; for as he hath, ſo he will bring down the Scepter of Antichriſt, and daſh in peeces the Kingdoms of the Earth, and binde Kings and Nobles in chains and fetters of Iron, ſaying, Bring thoſe mine enemies before me, that I may ſlay them. O haſten, haſten, ye men in power, that fear the Lord, and delight in righteouſneſs. Do it in ſincerity, and ſimplicity of heart, then ſhall you be out of fear, then will your enemies be at peace with you, and God will delight to honor you: Redeem your time while it is called to day, and ſet things in order for a free and equal Government, otherwiſe will all good mens hearts and affections be wholly taken from you, and their prayers too. Have you not ſeen what hath deſtroyed your forefathers, nay, men of your own Houſe and Army; and do you think you ſhall eſcape, except you leave off your policy, and immediately do good to all? no, no, God will not be mocked. This I thought my duty to lay before you, in order to ſomething of a more plainer nature, that ſo when God will, it ſhall appear, as my final Teſtimony againſt all unrighteouſneſs, and unrighteous men, though never ſo near and dear to me in the fleſh.

The Declaration of his Excellency the Lord Generall Fairfax, *and his generall Councel of Officers, ſhewing the Grounds of the Armie advance towards the City of* London.

BEing full of ſad Apprehenſions concerning the danger and evil of the Treaty with the King, and of any Accommodation with Him, or Reſtitution of him thereupon, we did by our late *Remonſtrance*, upon the Reaſons and Grounds therein expreſſed, make our Application thereby, unto the preſent Houſe of Commons, that the dangerous evil of that way might be avoyded, and the Peace of the Kingdom ſetled upon more righteous, ſafe, and hopeful grounds, *viz.* a more equal diſpenſing of Juſtice and Mercy in relation to things done or ſuffered in the late Wars, and the eſtabliſhing of the future Government of this Kingdom upon a ſafe Succeſſion and equal Conſtitution of Parliaments, and that (for the ending of preſent, and avoyding of future differences) to be ratified by an Agreement and Subſcription of the people thereunto.

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This course we took, out of our tender care and earnest desire, that all ways of Extremity might be avoyded, and that those matters of highest concernment, to the publique Interest of this Nation, might be pursued, and provided for (if possible) by those whose proper Work and Trust it was. And herein we were willing to hope that the persons so trusted, or the Majority of them, might possibly have been either driven into that destructive way, by forcible Impulsions, or lapsed thereinto through some Inconsideration, or Misapprehensions and conceived Jealousies: And therefore we did carefully decline the insisting upon any thing that might continue or renew any former Jealousies or Animosities, and kept only to such things as were of necessity or advantage to the common Cause, and of common and equal Concernment to those that have engaged in it: Which things we pressed in the way of Reason and Persuasion only, that might be duly and timely considered. But to our grief we finde, in stead of any Satisfaction or a reasonable Answer thereto, they are wholly rejected, without any consideration of whatever Reason or Justice might in the things set forth or propounded therein; for what less can be understood, when the things propounded were mainly for the avoydance of evils appearing in the Treaty with the King? And yet they put off the consideration of them, till there should be no place left for any consideration at all: First, laying it aside till Munday last, by which time the Treaty (as then supposed) would have been concluded; but that failing, and two days more being added to the Treaty, the consideration of our *Remonstrance* on the day appointed, and waved and laid aside; the Treaty, the mean while, going on in the former way and termes, and like to be concluded the very next day.

Now, though we are far from that presumption, that the things should therefore be answered or considered, because propounded by us, save for the Reason, Justice, or publique Concernment therein; yet having no Answer, or any thing shewed us to the contrary, we cannot but upon the grounds Remonstrated (and many more which might be added) remain confident in our former Apprehensions concerning them. And seeing the prevailing part of those to whom we did apply to have as it were, their eyes wilfully shut, and ears stopt, against any thing of Light or Reason offered to them, we finde no place left for our former charitable or hopeful Apprehensions, concerning their error in such evil wayes; but remaining fully assured of the danger & destructiveness thereof, as to all those publique ends for which they were intrusted, and also of the just advantage and necessity which lye in the things we have propounded and insist on, we now see nothing left, to which their engaging and persisting in such ways and rejection of these better things propounded, can rationally be attributed to less then a treacherous or corrupt neglect of, and Apostacy from the publique Trust reposed in them; although we could wish from our soules, we might yet finde the contrary. Nevertheless, we do not in these things assume a standing Power of Judgement (as of Right or Trust) to conclude others thereby, acknowledging that to lye most properly in those whom the people duly choose and trust to Judge for them: But considering that such power, where it is, is committed but in Trust, and that neither this, or any other people, did ever give up their Natural capacities of common Sense or Reason, as to the ends and fundamentals of that Trust, and that as to the breach of such Trust, there

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is no higher formal power of man in being to Appeal unto for Judgement, in ſuch caſe (as all others concerned in ſuch breaches of Truſt will) ſo as we can not but exerciſe that Common Judgment which in our Natural Capacity is left to us: And though in ſmaller failers of ſuch Truſt, which might be born without hazard of Deſtruction to that Intereſt, and thoſe People, for which eſpecially the Truſt is, or where the Truſtees were of an indifferent equal conſtitution in reference to the whole, or where we had an orderly and open way left for a juſt ſucceſſion of another formal and proper Judicature to be appealed unto in due time; we ſhould not oppoſe or hold forth our private Judgments to the leaſt diſturbance of that orderly and peaceable courſe of Judgment ſo eſtabliſh; yet in our preſent caſe we are ſo fully convinced of the greatneſs and deſtructiveneſs of thoſe evils we have declared againſt, and of the neceſſity and eſſentiality of thoſe better things we have deſired and propounded, and how inconſiſtent it is with the publike Truſt, and fundamental ends of it, ſtill to purſue the one, and reject the other; as that we dare with confidence appeal therein to the common Judgments of indifferent and uncorrupted men, and to the more righteous Judgment of God above all.

And as the incompetency of this Parliament, in its preſent conſtitution to give an abſolute and concluſive Judgment for the whole, (eſpecially to be the ſole Judges of their owne performance, or breach of Truſt) doth make the juſter way for ſuch an Appeal, ſo indeed we ſee no other way left for remedy, in regard the preſent unlimitted continuance of this Parliament doth exclude the orderly ſucceſſion of any other more equal, formal indicature of men, to which we might hope in due time otherwayes to appeal.

Thus then we apprehend our ſelves in the preſent caſe, both neceſſitated to, and juſtified in an appeal from this Parliament, in the preſent Conſtitution as it ſtands, unto the extraordinary Judgment of God and good people; and yet in the proſecution of this Appeal, as we ſhall drive it on but to the ſpeedy obtaining of a more orderly and equal Judicature of men, in a juſt Repreſentative, according to our Remonſtrance, (wherein to acquieſce,) ſo in the preſent procuring of Juſtice with the peoples eaſe and quiet, and in the ſettling of the Kingdom upon a due, ſafe and hopeful ſucceſſion of Parliaments, It is our hearts deſire, and ſhall be our indeavour, that ſo much, both of the matter and forme of the preſent Parliamentary Authority may be preſerved, as can be ſafe, or will be uſeful to theſe ends, until a juſt and full Conſtitution thereof, both for matter and form (ſuitable to the publike ends it ſerves for) can be introduced.

And therefore firſt, It ſhould be our great rejoycing (if God ſaw it good,) that the Majority of the preſent Houſe of Commons were become ſenſible of the evil and deſtructiveneſs of their late way, and would reſolvedly and vigorouſly apply themſelves to the ſpeedy execution of Juſtice, with the righting and eaſing of the oppreſſed people, and to a juſt and ſafe ſettlement of the Kingdom upon ſuch foundations as have been propounded by us, and others, for that purpoſe, and would for the ſpeedier and ſurer proſecution of theſe things exclude from Communication in their Councels all ſuch corrupt and Apoſtatized Members as have appeared hitherto, but to obſtruct and hinder ſuch matter of Juſtice, Safety, and publike Intereſt, and to pervert their Councels a contrary way, and have therein ſo ſhamefully both falſified and forfeited their Truſt.

But however (if God ſhall not ſee it good to vouchſafe that mercy to them and the

the Kingdom,) we shall, secondly, desire, that so many of them as God hath kept upright, and shall touch with a just sense of those things, would by Protestation, or otherwise, acquit themselves from such breach of Trust, and approve their faithfulness by withdrawing from those that persist in the guilt thereof, and would apply themselves to such a posture, whereby they may speedily and effectually prosecute those necessary and publike ends, without such Interruptions, Diversions, or Depravations of their Councels from the rest, to their endless trouble, oppression and hazard of the Kingdom as formerly, and for so many of them, whose hearts God shall stir up thus to do; we shall therein, in this case of extremity, look upon them as persons having materially the chief Trust of the Kingdom remaining in them, and though not a formal standing power to be continued in them or drawn into ordinary Presidents; yet the best and most rightful they can be had, as the present state and exigence of Affairs now stand; And we shall accordingly own them, adhere to them, and be guided by them in their faithful prosecution of that Trust, in order unto, and until the introducing of a more full and formal power in a just Representative to be speedily endeavored.

Now yet farther to take away all Jealousies in relation to our selves, which might withhold or discourage any honest Members from this course, as we have the witness of God in our hearts, that in these proceedings we do not seek, but even resolve we will not take advantages to our selves, either in point of Profit or Power; and that if God did open to us a way, wherein with honesty and faithfulnesse to the publique Interest, and good people engaged for us, we might presently be discharged, so as we might not in our present Employments look on, and be accessory to, yea supporters of the Parliament, in the present corrupt, oppressive and destructive proceedings, we should with rejoycing, and without more ado, embrace such a discharge, rather then interpose in these things to our own vast trouble and hazard; so if we could but obtain a rational assurance for the effectual prosecution of these things, we shall give any proportionable assurance on our parts, concerning our laying down of Arms, when, and as we should be required: But for the present, as the case stands, we apprehend our selves obliged in duty to God, this Kingdom, and good men therein, to improve our utmost abilities in all honest ways, for the avoiding of these great evils we have Remonstrated, and for the prosecution of the good things we have propounded; and also that such persons who were the Inviters of the late Invasion from *Scotland*, the Instigaters and Incouragers of the late Insurrections within this Kingdom, and (those forcible ways failing) have still pursued the same wicked Designes by treacherous and corrupt Councels, may be brought to publique Justice, according to their several demerits, For all these ends we are now drawing up with the Army to *London*, there to follow Providence as God shall clear our way.

By the Appointment of His Excellency the Lord Fairfax, *Lord Generall, and his General Councel of Officers held at* Windsor.

Signed,
John Rushworth, Secr.

FINIS.